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 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
 CD NO.

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Albania
 SUBJECT Sociological - Socialization of professions
 HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper
 WHERE PUBLISHED Tirana
 DATE PUBLISHED 22 Nov 1950
 LANGUAGE Albanian

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

DATE DIST. 4 Mar 1951

NO. OF PAGES 1

SUPPLEMENT TO
 REPORT NO.

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DECREE LAWYERS MUST BELONG TO COLLECTIVES

A new decree on lawyers' collectives was issued by the Presidium of the People's Kuvend on 11 September and published in the Official Gazette on 5 October 1950.

Under the new decree, lawyers may not practice unless they belong to collectives. Insofar as possible, collectives will be formed in all cities. All lawyers will be required to join a nearby cooperative, as specified by the Ministry of Justice, if there is no cooperative in their town.

The lawyers' collective will have the status of a juridical person. It will be headed by a lawyer elected for a one-year term. He shall distribute work among the lawyers, in accordance with their ability and special skills, as equally as possible. Clients shall apply not to individual lawyers but to the collective. Clients who insist on retaining a lawyer of their choice shall pay a 25-percent-higher fee.

Lawyers shall keep whatever income they earn by their own efforts, less a sum to cover the expenses of the collective and a contribution amounting to 20 percent of the income of each lawyer. These contributions will be pooled and distributed equally among all members of the collective. Each lawyer shall pay taxes individually on the basis of his own income.

This decree went into effect on 5 November 1950. The operations of the collective will be regulated in a separate order of the Ministry of Justice.

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